

NIO 1124-77

19 May 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
VIA : Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence
25X1 FROM : [redacted]
Executive Officer, National Intelligence Staff
SUBJECT : Response to Frank Barnett Letter

1. Action Required: Your signature.
2. The drafting of the response to Mr. Barnett involved two NIOs and got a low priority, with the result that we are tardy in getting this response to you for your signature.
3. The attached response, which was drafted by [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] defends our methodologies and analytical techniques, while at the same time it recognizes that they, too, can be further improved.
4. A critique of the W. T. Lee pamphlet is Tab.

Attachment
SR M 77-10066 (5 May 77)

25X1

25X1

25X1

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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director
SUBJECT : Response to Frank Barnett Letter

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Executive Registry
77-99311

NIO #1124-77
11 May 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
VIA : Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence
25X1 FROM : [redacted]
National Intelligence Officer for Economics
SUBJECT : Response to Frank Barnett letter

1. Action Required: Your signature.
2. Somehow this correspondence got lost "on the way to the Forum". It hit my desk on 6 May. Attached is my proposed reply.
3. Barnett's letter seems deliberately provocative, as indicated by his rhetorical question in the first paragraph. I felt that, while we have misgivings of our own about the concepts and analytic techniques involved, the letter deserved a fairly forceful answer.
4. A critique of the W. T. Lee pamphlet is attached at Tab.

25X1

Attachment:
SR M 77-10066 (5 May 1977) CONFIDENTIAL

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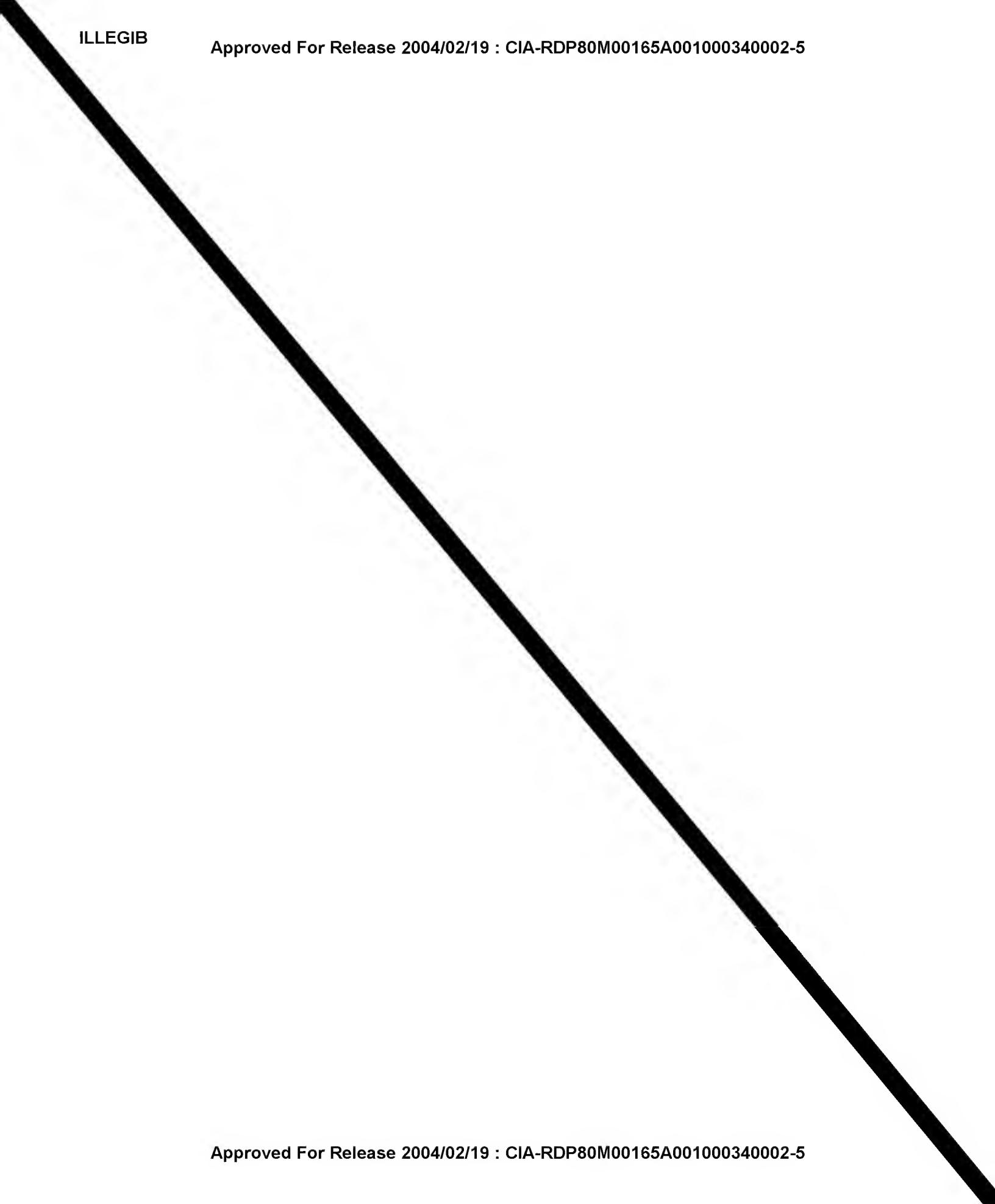
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25X1

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ES,

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Per our records the orig letter fm Mr. Barnett
was sent to NIO on 9 Apr 77 with a suspense date of
16 Apr.

ER/Ed

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Executive Secretary

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25 March 1977

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Washington, DC.

Dear Stan:

It is now clear that Soviet military spending has been twice as large as it was thought to be by most U.S. government agencies. How is it possible that intelligence estimates were understated by a factor of 100 percent?

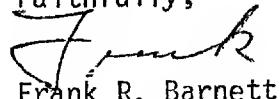
The answers are offered in the enclosed pamphlet by a brilliant analyst, W.T. Lee. (Mr. Lee's piece will appear later as a Chapter in our forthcoming book on the comparative defense budgets of the superpowers.)

As former Undersecretary of State Eugene Rostow points out in his Foreword:

"...the Soviet Union is embarked upon a program of indefinite political expansion, based on military forces which are growing more rapidly than our own... intended to achieve visible and complete superiority in every category... Yet the intelligence community has steadfastly resisted what was obvious to nearly everybody else."

Mr. Lee's analysis of why the intelligence estimates went wrong has a critical bearing on the current debate on U.S. defense needs and Soviet capabilities.

With best regards, I am

Faithfully,

Frank R. Barnett

Enc. (1)

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AGENDA

UNDERSTANDING THE SOVIET MILITARY THREAT

How CIA Estimates
Went Astray

With a Foreword
by Eugene V. Rostow

William T. Lee

National Strategy Information Center, Inc.
111 East 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022

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25 March 1977

Mr. Benjamin C. Evans, Jr.
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC.

Dear Ben:

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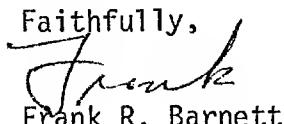
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With best regards, I am

Faithfully,

Frank R. Barnett

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UNDERSTANDING THE SOVIET MILITARY THREAT

How CIA Estimates
Went Astray

With a Foreword
by Eugene V. Rostow

William T. Lee

National Strategy Information Center, Inc.
111 East 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022

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7 MAR 1977

Dear Frank,

I very much appreciated your kind letter on the occasion of my appointment as Director of Central Intelligence.

I agree that the national defense is a pressing priority and I welcome the challenge that my new position will provide.

Again, your best wishes and congratulations were greatly appreciated.

Yours,

S/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Mr. Frank R. Barnett
National Strategy Information Center, Inc.
111 East 58th Street
New York, New York 10022

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PREFACE BY

Frank R. Barnett

EDITOR

Frank N. Trager

PUBLISHED BY

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7 January 1977

Mr. Benjamin C. Evans, Jr.
 Central Intelligence Agency
 Washington, DC. 20505

Dear Ben:

In the post-Mao era, one of the crucial questions that bears directly on our own security is: "Can Russia avoid a 'two-front' strategy by repairing her quarrels with China?"

A noted expert on China, Dr. Harold Hinton, addresses that topic in the enclosed book.

He details the history of the Sino-Soviet dispute and offers alternate scenarios for the future. The Moscow-Peking struggle, of course, is placed in the context of the relations of the two Communist Powers to the United States and our vital interests.

With best regards, I am

Faithfully,

Frank

Frank R. Barnett

FRB:srt
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